

### III. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A packaging machine, ~~having a displacement unit, characterised in that a co-travelling packaging item support means is arranged on the displacement unit~~ in which a plurality of packaging trays are thermoformed in a base film, which is conveyed along the packaging machine, the packaging trays are filled with package content and then sealed with a lidding film to form a finished pack, the packaging machine comprising:

a punching machine, a sealing station and/or a transverse cutter, which are displaceable in or contrary to a conveying direction of the base film; and

a packaging item support means that co-travels with the punching machine, the sealing station and/or the transverse cutter, the package item support means is arranged on the punching machine, the sealing station and/or the transverse cutter between two packs to avoid sagging of the base film.

2. (Previously Presented) A packaging machine according to claim 1, characterised in that the packaging item support means is at least one cable.

3. (Previously Presented) A packaging machine according to claim 2, characterised in that each cable comprises a first and a second end, which are each arranged on the displacement unit.

4. (Previously Presented) A packaging machine according to claim 3, characterised in that it comprises rollers, with which the cable is deflected.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A packaging machine according to claim ~~1~~ 2, characterised in that the displacement unit comprises at least one means with which the cable may be tensioned.

7. (Currently Amended) A packaging machine according to claim 6, characterised in that a tensioning means is assigned to each cable.

8. (Currently Amended) A packaging machine according to claim 1, characterised in that the displacement unit is driven by a motor ~~or a pneumatic cylinder~~.

9. (Previously Presented) A packaging machine according to claim 1, characterised in that it is a thermoforming packaging machine.

10. (Previously Presented) A packaging machine according to claim 1, characterised in that the displacement unit is a cutting means, a sealing means, a forming means or a filling means.